

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:JTREICHEL:PJP
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
O/C:JJACARUSO
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETEL, EEWT, UR, US

SUBJECT: CONTRACT FOR SOVIET SPACE COMMUNICATION STATION

1. DEPARTMENT HAS HEARD UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE
CONTRACT FOR A SECOND SOVIET EARTH STATION TO BE USED
WITH INTELSAT IN CONNECTION WITH THE OLYMPICS HAS BEEN
AWARDED TO NIPPON ELECTRIC COMPANY WHICH HAD BEEN IN
COMPETITION FOR THE CONTRACT WITH ITT. REQUEST EMBASSY
QUERY MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS OR FTO MASHBRIBORINTORG
WHETHER CONTRACT HAS IN FACT BEEN AWARDED.

2. BEGIN FYI: FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND ON THE SECOND
EARTH STATION CONTRACT. THE SECOND EARTH STATION WHICH
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IS INTENDED FOR OPERATION WITH INTELSAT WILL BE LOCATED
AT DUBNA. THIS STATION WILL BE OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE
BECAUSE IT IS SCHEDULED TO BE IN OPERATION DURING SECOND
HALF OF 1979 SO THAT IT WOULD CARRY ALL THE TV AND RADIO
TRANSMISSIONS EMANATING FROM THE 1980 OLYMPIC GAMES TO
THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

3. ITT SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE EARTH STATION AND ITT'S SPECIALISTS MADE SEVERAL TRIPS TO THE USSR FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL NEGOTIATIONS. ITT'S COMPETITORS FOR THE STATION CONTRACT

INCLUDE NIPPON ELECTRIC COMPANY (NEC) AND A FRENCH CONSORTIUM (TELESPACE). ITT IS THE ONLY US FIRM INVOLVED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION HAD INITIALLY BEEN IN FAVOR OF ITT BUT MORE RECENTLY THE MINISTRY'S POSITION HAD BECOME UNCLEAR. THIS MAY BE DUE TO LATE SUBMISSION OF THE FRENCH BID OR SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE RELATIVE MERITS OF ITT AND NEC. WERE ITT TO BE AWARDED THE CONTRACT THE YEARS OF ACTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND THE SOVIETS WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO TIMELY AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT, ESPECIALLY SINCE ITT WAS THE CONTRACTOR FOR THE FIRST SOVIET EARTH STATION. END FYI. VANCE

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